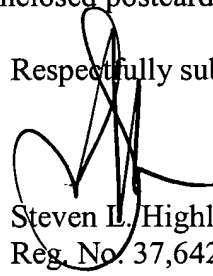


I. REMARKS

In response to the election of species imposed by the examiner, applicants first elect species (b) (claim 25). Second, applicants elect species (h) ( $\beta$ -hydroxycarboxylic acid). The elections are made without traverse. Claims 14-23 and 25-30 read on the elected species; claims 14-23 and 26-30 are generic with respect to species (b); and claims 14-23 and 25-30 are generic with respect to species (h). Applicants respectfully request, upon a finding that the elected subject matter is allowable, further examination of additional species and/or generic claims.

Should the examiner have any questions regarding this response, a telephone call to the undersigned is invited. Please date stamp the enclosed postcard as evidence of receipt.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: August 12, 2004